

IN THE UNITED STATE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Andrew L. Pearlman
Serial Number : Not Assigned (Continuation of S/N 09/928,678)
Filed : Herewith
For : Tissue Characterization Based on Impedance Images and
on Impedance Measurements
Art Unit : Not Assigned
Examiner : Not Assigned
Attorney Docket No : 701030-15

Box Patent Application
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Concurrently with the filing of the above referenced application, kindly amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly replace the "Cross reference to related application": section on page 1, with the following section:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/928,678, filed August 13, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/537,004, filed March 28, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,308,097, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/150,224, filed September 9, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,055,452 which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/725,927 filed October 4, 1996, now U.S. Patent

No. 5,810,742 which is a Continuation-in-part of International Application No. PCT/US95/06141, filed May 19, 1995, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. --

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly delete claims 1-33, without prejudice.

Kindly add the following claims:

- 34.(New) A method of acquiring aligned breast images, comprising:
- acquiring a mammogram of a breast in a first compression orientation; and
 - acquiring an impedance image of the breast while the breast is in the first compression orientation.
35. (New) A method according to claim 34, comprising analyzing both to mammogram and impedance image to determine tumor information of the breast.
36. (New) A method according to claim 35, wherein analyzing both the mammogram and the impedance image comprises combining the mammogram and the impedance image into a single image.
37. (New) A method according to claim 36, wherein analyzing both the mammogram and the impedance image comprises overlaying the mammogram and the impedance image.
38. (New) A method according to claim 36, wherein combining the mammogram and the impedance image into a single image comprises highlighting areas in the mammogram in which the impedance is relatively low or high.

39. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein acquiring the impedance image comprises acquiring using a pair of probes on opposite sides of the breast.

40. (New) A method according to claim 39, wherein the pair of probes comprises a pair of flat probes.

41. (New) A method according to claim 39, wherein acquiring the impedance image comprises acquiring an impedance image by each of the probes in the pair of probes.

42. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein acquiring the mammogram comprises acquiring a film mammogram.

43. (New) A method according to claim 42, comprising digitizing the film mammogram.

44. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein acquiring the mammogram comprises acquiring a digital mammogram.

45. (New) Apparatus for examining a breast, comprising:

at least one impedance probe adapted to generate an impedance image of a breast in a first compression orientation; and

an x-ray imager adapted to generate a mammogram of the breast while the breast is in the first compression orientation.

46. (New) Apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the at least one impedance probe comprises a pair of impedance probes for positioning on opposite sides of the breast.

47. (New) Apparatus according to claim 46, wherein the pair of impedance probes are adapted to compress the breast therebetween.

48. (New) Apparatus according to claim 45, comprising an image combiner adapted to combine the impedance image and the mammogram into a single image.

49. (New) Apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the image combiner is adapted to overlay the impedance image and the mammogram to form the single image.

50. (New) Apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the image combiner is adapted to highlight those areas of the mammogram in which the impedance is relatively low or high.

REMARKS

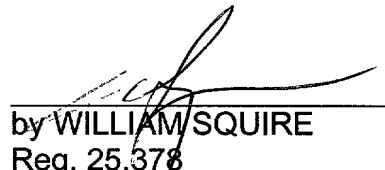
This amendment accompanies the above-entitled application, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/928,678.

The present amendment deletes claims 1-33 and adds claims 34-50.

Attached is a marked-up version of the amendment to the specification.

Applicant respectfully requests ending of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew L. Pearlman


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Marked-up Version of the Amendment to the Specification

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/928,678. filed August 13, 2001 which is a continuation of U.S. Application No 09/537,004 filed March 28, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,308,097, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/150,224 filed September 9, 1998, now U.S. Patent No 6,055,452, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/725,927. filed October 4, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,810,742, which is a Continuation-in-part of International Application No. PCT/US95/06141, filed May 19, 1995, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference in its entirety.